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Billy Carter Was Only Part of Libya's Bid To Sway U.S., Intelligence Reports Show

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 WASHINGTON—Intelligence reports being furnished to Senate investigators show that the government of Libya has engaged in a broad effort to influence U.S. policy through Billy Carter and some other prominent U.S. political figures.

"We know everything about the Libyans' intentions," said one government official familiar with the intelligence reports. This official noted that the U.S. has maintained unusually tight intelligence surveillance on the activities of the radical Arab regime—apparently including telephone wiretaps and other interceptions of telephone and cable messages.

The intelligence reports are being furnished to a special Senate subcommittee that is investigating Billy Carter's dealings with the Libyans and the Justice Department's investigation of that relationship. The Senate subcommittee has also requested extensive information from the White House and other federal agencies.

Monday Evening News Conference

Presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell said yesterday that President Carter plans to issue the information requested by the Senate panel on Monday and to answer reporters' questions about the affair at a Monday evening news conference.

The White House, eager to appear cooperative with the inquiry, also released copies of cables concerning Billy Carter's September 1978 trip to Libya. The White House had been rocked earlier this week by the disclosure that President Carter had discussed classified State Department cables with his brother; but press secretary Powell contended in releasing the cables that they didn't amount "to a hill of beans."

The decision to release the cables and to issue the White House report early next week underscored the President's desire to quell as quickly as possible the still-expanding political turmoil triggered by Billy Carter's admission last month that he received \$220,000 from the Libyans.

To speed up release of the report and prepare for the Monday night news conference, the President decided to postpone a planned trip to Cleveland Monday afternoon for a Democratic Party fund-raising event.

Crude Denial

Billy Carter jumped into the fray yesterday by issuing a crude denial that President Carter ever gave him copies of any documents relating to Libya. He was rebutting Joel Lisker, a Justice Department lawyer,

who recalled that in an interview with Billy Carter last January, Billy said he had copies of State Department cables that "Jimmy" had given him.

The scope of the Libya investigation could broaden once the intelligence reports about that country's campaign to influence U.S. policy are made available to the special Senate subcommittee. The Senate Intelligence Committee prepared the ground for disclosure of the reports yesterday by convening a special meeting to discuss U.S. intelligence about Libya that has been gathered by the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency and other segments of the intelligence community.

One source says the reports will show that Libya's campaign "went far beyond Billy Carter." Another official says that the documents will name some major U.S. political figures as targets of the Libyan effort.

Sen. Birch Bayh (D., Ind.), chairman of both the Senate Intelligence Committee and the special subcommittee investigating Billy Carter, said yesterday that some of the intelligence reports "would have a bearing" on the Billy Carter case but that they aren't "confined to this particular case."

'Educational' Overview

The Senate subcommittee voted yesterday to begin its hearings next Monday with an "educational" overview of Libya's efforts to influence the U.S., and the Arab regime's role in the world community. The first witness will be Under Secretary of State David Newsom.

At its second hearing, tentatively scheduled for next Wednesday, the committee will hear from legal experts, possibly including Justice Department officials, about recent practices in enforcing the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

The Justice Department accused Billy Carter in a civil suit filed last month of violating that act by failing to register as a Libyan agent. The committee will examine the department's assertions that its decision against criminal prosecution of Billy Carter under the act was a standard enforcement practice.

The committee also reached a tentative decision yesterday to try to complete its round of "investigative" hearings by the end of this month. But Republicans on the panel, worried that the politically volatile investigation might be halted prematurely, emphasized that this schedule of hearings could be extended if need be.

Sen. Bayh and the panel's vice chairman, Sen. Strom Thurmond (R., S.C.), both said that if President Carter asked to testify next week, prior to the Democratic convention, he would be welcome—so long as he agreed to answer further questions later.

Sen. Richard Lugar (R., Ind.), another member of the panel, summed up its battle plans for next week this way: "The country expects some activity, so we're going to have to provide some activity."